

# INTRODUCTION

These profile tables complement the data tables in *Characteristics of Doctoral Scientists and Engineers in the United States: 2001*, which report results from the 2001 Survey of Doctorate Recipients (SDR). Together, these reports continue a series on the demographic and employment profile of doctoral scientists and engineers in the United States.

The *Characteristics* report series presents general employment and demographic characteristics of people who have received doctorates in science or engineering, whereas the profile tables presented here provide a more detailed picture of employed doctoral scientists and engineers. These profiles include reasons for making certain choices in employment situations; work-related activities; and special-module data collected in 2001, such as publications and patenting activities and level of satisfaction with various job attributes reported by doctoral scientists and engineers.

The National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health sponsored the 2001 survey. It is the fifteenth in a series of surveys initiated in 1973 in response to the needs of the Federal Government for demographic and employment information on scientists and engineers trained at the doctoral level. From its inception, the SDR has been used to estimate the number of U.S. residents who hold research doctorates from U.S.

institutions in science and engineering and to characterize their demographic and employment patterns.

The SDR is a longitudinal panel survey of individuals who have received doctorates in science or engineering fields. The sampling frame for the SDR is the Doctorate Records File (DRF), a census of all research doctorates earned in the United States since 1920. The SDR sample for 2001 was 40,000. The data in these tables focus on those doctorate recipients who earned their degrees in science or engineering fields from U.S. institutions before June 2000, were age 75 or younger, and resided in the United States in April 2001. The estimated size of this population is 656,500.

For more information on the survey methodology, see Section II of *Characteristics of Doctoral Scientists and Engineers in the United States: 2001*. For further information, please contact:

Kelly H. Kang  
Human Resources Statistics Program  
Division of Science Resources Statistics  
National Science Foundation, Room 965  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230  
Telephone: (703) 292-7796  
E-mail: [kkang@nsf.gov](mailto:kkang@nsf.gov)